



NEWSLETTER

for the busy, successful lawyer on the go

Edition 34: April 2012

Message from our President

Dear Friends,

With the advent of our 11th. Annual FLI NET Spring Partners Conference in Berlin (May 10-12), the months of April and May turned into a blur. Organizing what have become true global events in all its facets takes a great deal of planning, follow through and relentless attention to detail. This year's conference in Berlin was a real milestone from a number of perspectives. With 41 FLI NET Partner firms in attendance, FLI outperformed our 2010 Conference by eleven new leading member firms; six General Counsels or MDs of Fortune Companies were among our distinguished list of VIPs guests who helped chair round table cluster discussions; two strategic alliance partners were also in attendance to add flavour to our proceedings. In all, Berlin has been a tipping point by anyone's standards, thus making next year's conference a very difficult benchmark to beat. For our special featured report on the Berlin Conference go to our News & Events or FLI NET in the Media, respective sections.



FLI welcomes two new FLI NET Partners: USA & Croatia

We are pleased to announce FLI's steady growth in America and Europe. In anticipation of FLI NET Spring Conference in Berlin, FLI welcomed two brand new, top-rated firms to our global family:

- ✓ **USA** – Workman Nydegger (www.wnlaw.com)

FLI's first member in the United States.

Workman Nydegger was founded in 1984 by H. Ross Workman, Rick D. Nydegger and Allen R. Jensen, and a handful of younger lawyers. From that modest beginning, the firm now numbers over a hundred staff with 52 lawyers and is known both in the U.S. and internationally as a top intellectual property firm specializing in litigation and prosecution of U.S. and foreign patents and other intellectual property.

The Firm's litigation experience is broad and far reaching. The largest part of the litigation practice includes pursuing and defending against patent infringement claims in jurisdictions across the U.S. (and not infrequently in foreign jurisdictions). The Firm has added partners who have helped to establish a vibrant commercial litigation practice that spans complex business disputes, securities, antitrust and other types of commercial litigation.

Workman Nydegger has active and prospering trademark and copyright litigation practices and regularly goes up against some of the largest firms in the U.S. and prevail. The litigation lawyers have been selected for inclusion in the "Best Lawyers in America" publication, as Lawyer of the Year in California, and are perennial honorees as "Super Lawyers" in the intermountain west.





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The Firm's patent prosecution section is frequently honored for its top caliber work. Just this year, Workman Nydegger received a Top 10 ranking on "The Patent Scorecard 2011 - Law Firms," an annual survey by Intellectual Property Today, a national trade journal focused on legal issues in patent, trademark and copyright law. The survey ranks firms across the country against a variety of indicators measuring patent strength and quality. Workman Nydegger was also ranked top six percentile in a nationwide survey (of 327 total firms) based on the number of patents issued for clients. Notably, the firm was one of only five firms in the entire country that was ranked in both the top 10 for patent quality, as well as the top 25 for the number of patents obtained for clients. The accomplishment is further underscored if one considers that based on the



number of patent attorneys in each of the ranked firms, Workman Nydegger is among the top five firms in terms of the per capita number of patents obtained for its clients. The firm has been honored for seven consecutive years as a "Go-To Law Firm" law firm for Fortune 500 companies in the U.S. Firms receiving this honor are nominated by their clients, not by other outside law firms.

The Firm's litigation and patent prosecution practices encompass a wide variety of technologies, including medical devices, the life sciences, software and hardware, nanotechnology, ecommerce, physics and mechanical engineering, energy and environmental technologies, telecommunications and wireless technologies. lawyers have expertise in a wide variety of technologies. Because Workman Nydegger has extensive international experience, it has assembled a unique team of legal professionals, many of whom have lived overseas and speak a second language. Included among the second languages spoken by the firm's attorneys are French, German, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, Swedish, Russian and Japanese. Other Workman Nydegger employees are fluent in Cambodian and Korean.

On a national level, the firm's attorneys have also been active in donating time to serve in professional associations such as The American Intellectual Property Lawyers Association, the Intellectual Property Law Section of the American Bar Association, the National Council of Intellectual Property Law Associations, the National Inventors Hall of Fame, the Supreme Court Historical Society and the Utah State Bar. Several of our attorneys have chaired committees for these IP associations, and have served on their governing boards. Members of the firm have also been involved in helping to shape IP policy in other ways, including service on the Patent Public Advisory Committee of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.





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✓ **CROATIA** – Šavorić & Partners (www.savoric.com)

Šavorić & Partners is a law firm in Croatia providing legal services in corporate, M&A and financial projects as well as property developments in Croatia.

The firm's lawyers provide dedicated approach to international and local clients.

The firm philosophy is to offer full legal services and complete solutions while doing business in Croatia.

The mission of the firm is to provide creative and focused tailor made advice, applying high international standards and local knowledge and expertise.

Note: Due to local restrictions in Croatia, we can only publish a limited description of the law firm

FLI NET HONORS & ACCOLADES

FLI NET Czech Republic Partner - **Havel, Holásek & Partners** – receives repeated recognition from DealWatch!



DealWatch has published the results of its analytical survey on mergers and acquisitions in Central and Eastern Europe for the year 2011. Based on the results, in comparison with the year 2010, there was a total increase in the number of transactions by almost 12%. Havel, Holásek & Partners advised on the majority of mergers and acquisitions carried out in the CEE region in terms of the number and volume of the transactions closed.

DealWatch contains detailed data on international and national transactions covering mergers, acquisitions, minority equity stake buys, privatizations, joint ventures, initial public offerings (IPOs), secondary public offerings (SPOs), and other forms of corporate transactions. DealWatch has been continuously updating its data for a period of 10 years. In 2011, CEE region-based companies closed nearly 3,800 M&A transactions. The total value of the transactions amounted to approximately EUR 150 billion.



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The results of the DealWatch analytical survey are divided into two ranked categories: the number of transactions closed and the total volume of transactions closed. In 2011 there was a slightly declining trend in both categories in the Czech Republic. As for the number and volume of transactions closed, Havel, Holásek & Partners was ranked first and thus retained its No.1 position from the previous year.

“Despite the declining trend of the mergers and acquisitions closed that is currently prevailing in the Czech market, the first quarter’s figures show that our law firm will achieve similar results this year as in the previous year”,



says **Jaroslav Havel**, a founding partner of Havel, Holásek & Partners.

FIRST LAW INTERNATIONAL



FLI NET **Japan, France & Greece** Receive High Rankings

The June 2012 issue of Private Equity Magazine ranked FLI NET France law firm Lamy Lexel number 8 for M&A deals for companies valued up to 75M€.

The 2012 issue of Chambers Global has recognized FLI NET Japan law firm Atsumi & Sakai as a leading law firm in the following areas: "Banking & Finance", "Capital Markets: Securitisation & Structured Finance" and "Corporate/M&A".

Legal 500 2012 has named FLI NET **Greece** law firm Kelemenis & Co. a top tier firm in Energy. In all, the firm has been recognized for the quality of its legal services in nine (9) practice areas by the 2012 edition of Legal 500, namely Corporate and M&A, Dispute resolution, Energy, EU and competition, Employment, Intellectual property, Projects and privatization, Tax, Banking, finance and capital markets.



FLI NET Philippines – Joining of New Partners and award for ALB Philippine Deal Firm of the Year



SyCip Salazar Hernandez & Gatmaitan (SyCipLaw) has recently welcomed to its growing team Benedicto P. Panigbatan and Franco Noel A. Manaig to the Firm’s partnership.

Benedicto P. Panigbatan



Mr. Panigbatan has been with the firm since December 1997. He specializes in mergers and acquisitions, foreign investments, corporate structuring and reorganization, sale and purchase of non-performing assets of banks and financial institutions, securities regulation, documentation of loans and security arrangements, real estate joint ventures and financing, and taxation (including estate planning and availment of reliefs and exemptions under various tax treaties). He also handles mining and construction projects, general corporate services, legal due diligence exercises, and general contract drafting, review and negotiations. Mr. Panigbatan is acting as corporate secretary or assistant corporate secretary in various companies in the fields of real estate, investment house business, pharmaceuticals, tollroad business, mining, and business process outsourcing. Mr. Panigbatan earned the degree of Bachelor of Laws from the University of the Philippines where he ranked 7th in the graduating class of 1997 and received the Dean’s Medal for Academic Excellence. He is a member of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines. He was a lecturer on “Contract Writing and Contract Review” for the firm’s Mandatory Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) program accredited by the Supreme Court. He has contributed legal articles on banking, finance and securities to several international publications.

Franco Noel A. Manaig



Mr. Manaig has been a member of the firm since 2000 and specializes in intellectual property, franchising and distribution. Mr. Manaig received his LL.B. from the University of the Philippines where he received the Dean’s Medal for Academic Excellence. He is a member of the Intellectual Property Association of the Philippines and is director for service projects of the Rotary Club of Makati Pasong Tamo. He has contributed legal articles on intellectual property to several international publications.





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Moreover, Hernandez & Gatmaitan (SyCipLaw) was adjudged as the **Philippine Deal Firm of the Year at the Marina Bay Financial Centre ALB Southeast Asia Law Awards 2012**, alongside Romulo Mabanta Buenaventura Sayoc & De Los Angeles.

The event, held on May 11 at Singapore's Shangri-La Hotel, was attended by over 300 lawyers and in-house counsel from all over Southeast Asia. Already on its 8th year, the award recognizes the excellence and outstanding achievements of Southeast Asia's leading law firms and in-house legal teams, including top deals and dealmakers.

Some of the notable deals that SyCipLaw handled include representing PLDT in the acquisition of a controlling equity stake in Digitel; representing joint lead managers Citigroup Global Markets Limited and HSBC in the issuance of subordinated guaranteed perpetual capital securities by Royal Capital B.V., with the guarantee of International Container Terminal Services, Inc.; acting as Philippine counsel to Gold Fields Netherlands Services BV in the Mankayan Project Acquisition; advising ING Bank and ING Investment Management Asia Pacific (Hong Kong) Limited in the sale by ING Bank of its trust and investment management business and other related assets in the Philippines to the Bank of the Philippine Islands; acting as special Philippine counsel to CIT Bank in financing for the purchase of two aircrafts by Challenger Aero Limited and the deregistration of aircrafts in the Philippines; acting as counsel to the lead managers in the SMC Global Power Holdings Corporation notes issue; and advising Meralco PowerGen Corporation on the acquisition of Redondo Peninsula (RP) Energy Inc.